

PROMISE #2: I AM COMING SOON

COVID Promises: Revelation 22

August 16, 2020

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

I am coming soon, #1: The River of Life

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

⁶ The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."

⁷ "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. ⁹ But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

¹⁰ Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. ¹¹ Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy."

Revelation 22:1-11

1) "Coming soon" means that Eden is _____

2) "Coming soon" means that the curse is _____

3) "the time is near" means that good and evil are _____

I am coming soon, #2: Who is left outside?

¹² “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

¹⁴ “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

Revelation 22

1) Robes identify the _____

2) “Outside” means _____ (Matthew 8:5-12, 22:1-14, 25:14-30)

3) Major issue: If God is so loving, why doesn't he just forgive sin and forget evil?

From Leon Morris, *The Biblical Doctrine of judgment*: Judgment protects the idea of the triumph of God and of good. It is unthinkable that the present conflict between good and evil should last throughout eternity. Judgment means that evil will be disposed of authoritatively, decisively, finally. Judgment means that in the end God's will will be perfectly done.

From C. S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*: There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened.

Two very different kinds of “Come!”

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

Revelation 22:17 (see Spurgeon's “The Two Comes” sermon and J. C. Ryle's tract “Come”)

1) The “Your kingdom come” kind (Matthew 6:10, Revelation 6)

2) The “Come to Jesus” kind (Matthew 11:25-30)

I am coming soon, #3: Living into the promise of his coming

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

Revelation 22:20-21

1) Judgment is _____ -- it should change the way we look at the unsaved

There is a Midrash that tells of God rebuking His angels for rejoicing as the Egyptians were drowning, saying, "Are these not my children also?" We now pour ten drops of wine to symbolize the ten plagues upon Egypt. A full cup of wine is the symbol of complete joy. Though we celebrate our freedom, our cup cannot be filled because our freedom did not come without a cost. Each drop of wine that we pour out of our cups diminishes our joy.

Hebrew Haggadah

2) The answer to "why not yet" is _____

³ First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3

3) Be _____ ; Stay _____ ; Jesus _____ !

⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Matthew 24:42-44

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

2 Peter 3 (see also J. C. Ryle's "Are You Ready?" tract)

Resources for further study

J. C. Ryles' tract "Come" at <https://www.monergism.com/come>

Leon Morris, *The Biblical Doctrine of Judgment* (Eerdmans, 1960). The above quote is on page 72.

Vern Poythress' "Return of the King" study <https://frame-poythress.org/ebooks/the-returning-king/>

Kim Riddlebarger's "Behold, I am Coming Soon" and "To Him Who Loves Us" messages at <http://kimriddlebarger.squarespace.com/downloadable-sermons-on-the-bo/>

Riddlebarger also has a helpful essay (even if it's too hard on other views) on "Thy Kingdom Come" at <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/thykingdom.html>

Spurgeon's "The Two Comes" at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-two-comes/#flipbook/>

Deffinbaugh's "The Hope of Heaven" at <https://bible.org/seriespage/8-hope-heaven-final-word-heaven-revelation-21-22>

I appreciate Grant Osborne's commentary on Revelation 6 in *BECNT: Revelation* (Baker, 2002) and William Hendricksen's *More Than Conquerors* (Baker Book House, 1939, 1967).

Doug's go-to sources for Revelation are Darrell Johnson's *Discipleship on the Edge* (Regent College Publishing, 2004), Eugene Peterson's *Reversed Thunder* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1988) and Robert Mounce's *NICNT: The Book of Revelation* (Eerdmans, 1977).

Summary of Biblical Theology from the ESV Study Bible

